

WEATHER.

Fair and cooler tonight; tomorrow fair.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m. today: Highest, 62, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 55, at 6:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 14.

Closing New York Stocks, Page 14.

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The Evening Star

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TWO CENTS.

GERMAN STEADFAST NEW BILL FOR PEACE

ORDERS NO MORE PASSENGER SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

Berlin Government Declares It Can Approve No Peace Minus Honor.

WILSON CHARGES OF ILLEGAL AND INHUMAN ACTS DENIED

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, October 21.—The German reply to President Wilson's note, the text of which was received here today by wireless, says Germany hopes the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with the opening of the way to a peace of justice.

Germany protests against the references of President Wilson to illegal and inhuman acts. Denial is made that the German navy purposely destroyed lifeboats with passengers. The government proposed that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions.

Germany has dispatched orders to submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships.

The German government suggests to President Wilson that an opportunity be brought about for fixing the details of the evacuation of occupied territories.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION.

Announcement is made of a fundamental change in the German constitution providing for representation of the people in the decisions concerning peace and war, and it is said the present government has been formed in complete accordance therewith.

Germany claims the sanction of international law for carrying out destruction of property during retreats, and says her troops are under strict instructions to spare private property and care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur, the note says, the guilty are being punished.

No future German government will be able to take or hold office unless it possesses the confidence of a majority of the reichstag, the note announces.

Germany has agreed that conditions of an armistice should be left to the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field should form the basis for arrangements.

TEXT OF GERMAN REPLY

TO PRESIDENT WILSON

LONDON, October 21.—The text of the German note, as received by wireless, is as follows:

In accepting the proposal for an evacuation of occupied territories the German government has started from the assumption that the procedure of this evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements to safeguard and guarantee this standard.

The German government suggests to the President that an opportunity should be brought about for fixing the details. It trusts that the President of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice.

Protests Against Reproach.

The German government protests against the reproach of illegal and inhuman actions made against the German land and sea forces and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destructions will always be necessary and they are carried out in so far as is permitted by international law. The German troops are under most strict instructions to spare private property and to exercise care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur in spite of these instructions the guilty are being punished.

The German government further denies that the German navy in sinking ships has ever purposely destroyed lifeboats with passengers. The German government proposes with regard to all those charges that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions.

In order to avoid anything that might hamper the work of peace, the German government has caused orders to be dispatched to all submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships with-out, however, for technical reasons, being able to guarantee that these orders will reach every sin-

gle submarine at sea before its return.

As a fundamental condition for peace the President prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world. To this the German government replies: Hitherto the representation of the people in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence on the formation of the government.

The constitution did not provide for a concurrence of representation of the people in decisions of peace and war. These conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes (principles) of the representation of the people, based on equal, universal, secret, direct franchise.

Government in the Future.

The leaders of the great parties of this government are members of the government can take or continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the reichstag.

The responsibility of the chancellor of the empire is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire so that the consent of the representation of the people is required for decisions on war and peace.

The permanence of the new system is, however, guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguards, but also by the unshakable determination of the German people whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demand their energetic continuance.

The question of the President—with whom he and the governments associated against Germany are dealing—is therefore answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary and irresponsible influence, is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people.

NO GOVERNMENT BRIDE FATION

No State and City Legislation for District Based on Slander of Washingtonians as Unworthy.

FAIR PLAY FOR CAPITAL

[Editorial Correspondence of The Star.]

THEODORE W. NOYES.

Chairman Johnson's slanderous assault upon the Senate as the accomplice and protector of rental profiteers, because that body favors a better, fairer and more effective way of preventing and punishing the evil of rental profiteering than that proposed by Mr. Johnson, is the logical culmination of his characteristic policy of District legislation by defamation, which he has in this matter imposed upon the helpless District of Columbia.

In pursuance of this policy he attempted in his House campaign to beat down all criticism and suggested radical amendment of his fair-tenants measure by slurring sweepingly the Washington real estate men, the local landlords, The Star and even his fellow representatives who had the audacity to attempt to improve his bill.

Slander by Wholesale.

The Star last February entered earnest protest in behalf of Washington against law-making procedure in the House which breaks down opposition to proposed District legislation by slurring the motives of every opponent or critic or proposer of amendment. The Star suggested that a notable example of this unfair and dangerous policy of law making was found in the then recent discussion of the anti-profiteering bill in the House, in which Chairman Johnson suggested the opposition to his bill was far from aiming to correct and improve it, meant only opposition to the nation and punishment of profiteering, and that every opponent of his bill was either a profiteer or indirectly bribed by the profiteers, or a friend of the profiteers lacking patriotism.

The Star said at that time: The Congressional Record shows that Chairman Johnson denounced three sources of opposition to his bill: (1) Some gentlemen on the floor of the House; (2) "the real estate men of the District"; and (3) "the profiteers." Mr. Johnson slurred all three classes of opponents of his bill. Concerning the first class, Mr. Johnson said: "These gentlemen who led the opposition, he said he found 'that apparently some of his parties had been led into a storm at sea,' and that the local profiteers called him 'Friend.'"

Real Estate Men and Profiteers. Concerning the opposition of the real estate men, Mr. Johnson said: "I understand it, particularly when I know that they and their clients are the profiteers, and again: 'Unless this action be taken, the profiteers of the Real Estate Brokers' Association and the property owners would not be obliged to pay the rent.'"

Slurs affecting committee hearings are found in the Record. The House District committee, on October 10, 1918, reported the bill favorably without hearings. After this action the committee authorized post-mortem hearings. The real estate men, through their organization, the Real Estate Brokers' Association, and a special committee of the association, requested a public hearing. The date of the hearing was then held. Mr. Johnson, in the House, said: "The committee has heard by him alone and hinting that the committee feared discussion of the matter because those who had been extorted upon would also come and be heard on the other side. He attributed the committee's alleged change of mind from opposing to favoring a public hearing to a change of mind 'as the extent of the delay sought in the interest of profiteering.'"

Burglars, Thieves and Washingtonians.

When Mr. Tinkham urged that the bill be referred back to the District committee, "as no hearings were held," Mr. Johnson interrupted to ask: "Would the gentleman advocate giving burglars and thieves a hearing in the committee to stop them from their practices?"

In imposing indiscriminately the stigma of profiteering Mr. Johnson makes every landlord in the District a profiteer when he says: "I provided for their return instead of annual returns so as to give these profiteers just as much trouble as possible."

The Star added: "When Mr. Johnson thinks the matter over he will find that he ought not to have slurred the honesty of the motives or the patriotism of any of his three classes of critics. He ought to have recognized the fact that the House should deal with this matter."

"I know in advance," said Senator Gore, "that another conference on this measure would be unavailable. I give notice, however, that if the Senate votes not to recede this morning, I will move that the Senate adhere to this amendment, and then the burden will be upon the House whether the remainder of the bill shall fail."

Prohibition Issue Up.

It became apparent that the prohibition fight in the District rent profiteering amendment as a screen was to be waged over again in the Senate. Prohibition senators, while deploring the fact that rent profiteering legislation could not be had, urged the adoption of the Gore motion on the ground that there was no reason why war-time prohibition should be allowed to fail as well as rent profiteering legislation.

Senator Jones of Washington and Senator Sheppard of Texas, both prohibitionists, took this stand. Other senators, however, who are not anxious to have the war-time prohibition



GOOD WAR SERVICE.

SENATE FIRM FOR RENT AMENDMENT

Votes to Insist on Pomerene Measure, Aimed at D. C. Profiteering.

ORDERED TO CONFERENCE

The Senate today voted to insist further upon the Pomerene rent-profiteering amendment to the emergency agricultural appropriation bill and sent the bill back to conference.

It first defeated a motion by Senator Gore of Oklahoma to recede from the Pomerene amendment, so that the rest of the bill, including war-time prohibition, might immediately become a law.

Senator Gore sought, after his motion to recede had been defeated, to have the Senate vote to adhere to the Pomerene amendment. Such a motion, if adopted, would have meant that the House must accept the Pomerene amendment or throw the entire bill into the discard.

Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and others objected to this course, and the bill finally was sent back to conference. Senator Gore's argument for his motion to adhere was to the effect that the House would yield to the rent-profiteering amendment rather than have it said that the House had prevented war-time prohibition.

Senator Gore Explains.

Senator Gore explained that he was convinced the Senate could get no agreement from the House on the rent profiteering amendment and that the rest of the bill, including the war-time prohibition rider, would die unless the House would yield to the Pomerene amendment. He said he made his motion to recede because he did not wish further to delay the entire bill.

Senator Pomerene, author of the Pomerene bill, declared it his belief that no such difference existed between the House and the Senate over rent profiteering legislation which could not be reconciled. If the conferees went at the matter in a proper way, he said that he would be satisfied with any legislation which the House would agree upon. He emphasized the need of legislation to prevent rent profiteering in the District.

View of Senator King.

"If we accept the motion of Senator Gore, it means there will be no rent profiteering legislation at this session of Congress," suggested Senator King of Utah.

Senator Pomerene replied, "I am afraid that is so."

"Yet the profiteering on war workers in Washington is worse than ever," said Senator King.

Senator Gore admitted that the Senate receded there would be no legislation on this subject. He said that the House conferees, however, held to their argument that another committee, the District committee of the House, should deal with this matter.

"I know in advance," said Senator Gore, "that another conference on this measure would be unavailable. I give notice, however, that if the Senate votes not to recede this morning, I will move that the Senate adhere to this amendment, and then the burden will be upon the House whether the remainder of the bill shall fail."

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KARL TO PROCLAIM INDEPENDENCE OF HUNGARY AS STATE

Nation Will Have Economic Freedom; Maintain Own Army and Diplomats.

By the Associated Press.

AMSTERDAM, October 21.—Emperor Charles will shortly issue a manifesto to the Hungarian people announcing the independence of Hungary, according to the Budapest correspondent of the Rhenish Westphalian Gazette.

Hungary, the manifesto will say, is to have economic independence and will maintain her own army and her own diplomatic corps.

LIGGETT AND BULLARD TO BE LIEUT. GENERALS

Maj. Gens. Hunter Liggett and Robert L. Bullard were nominated by President Wilson today to be lieutenant generals.

Gen. Liggett commands the 1st and Gen. Bullard commands the 2d American Field Army in France. They became the only lieutenant generals on the active list, their new rank being for the war period, like that of Gen. Pershing.

Gen. Liggett is a major general in the regular establishment; Gen. Bullard is a brigadier.

When Gen. Liggett arrived in France Gen. Pershing was at work on the formation of the 1st Army Corps. This task was promptly assigned to Liggett. The American commander-in-chief was so well satisfied with the result that Liggett was given direct command of the 1st American Army when it was organized. He led it into action, when, in the first major offensive, the St. Mihiel salient was wiped out in a day.

HUN "SNAKE" PAYS FOR HOSPITALITY BY DESTROYING FAMILY

WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES IN FRANCE, Saturday, October 19 (By the Canadian Press).—Although Le Cateau was not systematically destroyed by the Germans, there were individual acts of vandalism both there and in adjoining villages. Perhaps the whole war has not produced another act so vile as that which is vouchered for by French official investigators.

In Montigny, due west of Le Cateau, a German officer lived eighteen months with a French family. He was a pleasant fellow, taking his meals with the family and frequently performing on the piano for them.

One evening he failed to return for dinner and members of the family waited in vain for him and at midnight retired to bed. At 3 o'clock in the morning a German soldier came to the door with a message that the family was to be killed with the exception of an eight-month-old child. The family consisted of several old people and women and children.

EPIDEMIC RECEDES, VIEW OF OFFICIALS

Announce Fewer Deaths and New Cases in District for Three-Day Period.

REPORT UP TO NOON TODAY

While there was a falling off of only five deaths from influenza for the period of twenty-four hours ending at noon today, the decrease, combined with the encouraging decline in the death list for the past three days, is looked upon by the health authorities as encouraging.

These figures of fatalities from influenza, in connection with a slump of 502 new cases for the twenty-four-hour period ending at noon today, to which may be added a slump of 190 for the similar period on Saturday, making 692 fewer new cases in forty-eight hours than reported on previous days, have given the health authorities buoyant hopes that the worst is over.

The official vital statistics of deaths from influenza for the past twenty-four hours up to and including midnight today is sixty-one. Saturday midday up to midnight Saturday the number numbered sixty-six. That figure showed a falling off of twenty-nine deaths. During the past seven days there has been a falling off in the death list of forty-eight deaths.

Statement by Dr. Mustard.

Dr. M. S. Mustard of the public health service expressed the view this morning that there is a possibility of some increase in the number of new cases and in the death list, as compared with today's conditions, if certain climatic and other conditions, over which the health authorities have no control, should arise. However, he is hopeful and much encouraged on reports of conditions this morning.

Weather More Favorable.

Fear was entertained during the rain yesterday that if that condition continued there would be a material increase of deaths and a general spread of the contagion.

Today's bright, warm sunshine, with a tinge of fall in the dry air, has lent encouragement to the men and women organized to combat the epidemic for an early victory over the contagion, with the city restored to its normal health conditions.

Little Present Prospect of Resuming the Activities Halted by the Epidemic

There seems scant prospect of the resumption for some time to come of those activities, recreational and otherwise, suspended because of the influenza epidemic. Despite the assured decline of the epidemic, as evidenced by reduction of deaths and new cases, the theaters, motion picture houses, schools and other places of public assembly still will remain closed and organizations will continue to refrain from holding their accustomed meetings.

View of Health Officer.

Health Officer W. C. Fowler said this morning that he would be most cautious in recommending to the District Commissioners any policy looking to the withdrawal of the restrictions and restrictions in force in the District made to prevent the further spread of the contagion. The reopening of places of public gathering, closed as a means of preventing the spread of contagion, he said, would only be ordered after the most mature consideration and when the health authorities felt assured that the danger has passed. Just when that would be a matter for dinner and members of the family waited in vain for him and at midnight retired to bed. At 3 o'clock in the morning a German soldier came to the door with a message that the family was to be killed with the exception of an eight-month-old child. The family consisted of several old people and women and children.

BRITISH SMASH HUN SELLE POSITIONS, CAPTURING 3,000

Hold Heights and Threaten to Cut the Valenciennes-Avesnes Railroad.

FOE FAILS TO STEM ALLIES' DRIVE ON DUTCH FRONTIER

By the Associated Press.

British troops, in smashing through the formidable German positions along the Selle river north of Le Cateau, captured more than 3,000 prisoners. The Germans were forced from positions of great natural strength on a wide front and the British gains were maintained notwithstanding enemy counter attacks. The British now hold the heights between the Selle and Harpies rivers and are in a position to outflank the Mormal forest and cut the railroad between Valenciennes and Avesnes.

Progress in North.

Further north the allied forces continue their progress through Belgium and French Flanders from Denain to the Dutch frontier. On the north the Belgians are approaching Ghent, while in the center the British are marching on the Scheldt river, and outflanking Tournai, an important railway junction, which towns have been made useless to the Germans.

In spite of the efforts of the Germans to check the advance of the allies, the British, French and Belgians continue their sweeping march from Tournai to the Dutch frontier. Official reports show that they have reached points within ten miles of Ghent. The Belgians are along the Heyze-Ecluse canal, which runs northward from the Lys river to Zeebrugge, and have taken a number of important points near that waterway. Further south the French have crossed the Lys and have established bridgeheads at various points. Along the Lys the British second army has moved swiftly toward the Scheldt river and are at Pecq, on the west bank of the river.

Flooded Country Underters.

In this sector of the battle line the allies are moving toward the southeast, and it seems they will be able to reach Ghent by the main forces in a very short time. The Germans have flooded some of the country, but a strong effort to interfere with the progress of the armies commanded by King Albert. The British and American troops are fighting their way ahead along a ten-mile front east of Le Cateau. They have gained a bridgehead across the railroad which runs southward to Buzancy behind the front, where the Germans are trying to stop the American drive on the line from the Argonne to the Meuse. If Le Cateau should be occupied by the French the event would be almost certain to bring about a German withdrawal east of the Meuse.

YANKEES FALL BACK, THEN TAKE WOOD ON WESTERN END OF LINE

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, October 21, noon (by the Associated Press).—Fierce fighting took place today in the Bois de Happe, on the western end of the American line. In the contest the Americans were driven back, but they counter attacked and regained the part of the wood that had been lost.

Aim Blow at Americans.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, October 21, noon (by the Associated Press).—It is the purpose of the German command to displace every foot of the American advance on the line west of the Meuse and to inflict the heaviest possible loss on the Americans. The Germans are aiming a blow at the Americans in the Bois de Happe, on the western end of the American line.

They added that the Americans in taking over this sector would find more formidable opposition than any place else on the front, and would be forced to fight a hard battle. German defense was necessary on this sector, they said, because it was necessary to stand firm while the German lines northward to the North sea were being readjusted.

German Government on October 12 Told President Wilson that it was ready to comply with the propo-

ALLIES, NEARLY RAIN-BLINDED, PUSH FOE BACK IN BELGIUM

PARIS, October 21.—The allied forces, while pushing further into central Belgium on the north, are fighting their way forward on the south toward the Belgian border south of Valenciennes. Sunday the allied troops had to fight the elements as well as the Germans. Rain fell continually and the soldiers were soaked and partly blinded, while airplanes were of little use.

With spirits undampened, however, the allied troops continued their efforts, and in Flanders they worked a little nearer to the important city of Ghent and are approaching very close to the west bank of the Scheldt.

On the right of the line in Belgium the British 5th Army has to all intents and purposes taken Tournai, an important railroad junction.

Army Heads Toward Mons.

Further south the British 3d Army has crossed the Selle and is headed toward Mons by way of Quenast and north of the Mormal forest, while Gen. Rawlinson's 4th Army has reached the Sambre-Oise canal and is advancing around the southern end of the Mormal forest up the valley of the Sambre toward Maubeuge. The net result of the efforts of the 4th and 5th British armies was that the pivot on which the German retreat across Belgium was a slump of 190 cases Saturday.

The British were badly shaken. The British

15,000 Huns Cut Off.

LONDON, October 20.—Fifteen thousand retreating German soldiers have been interned in Holland after being cut off by Belgian troops moving out from the front. The British 5th Army has to all intents and purposes taken Tournai, an important railroad junction.

Belgian soldiers took charge of the Dutch-Belgian border last night and were relieved enthusiastically by the populace.

AMSTERDAM, Sunday, October 20.—German guards at the frontier post of Maaga-Van Gent, near Watervliet, six miles from Rotterdam, were replaced by entente guards today. The post at Sas-van-Gent, seven miles farther south, was being held by the German troops, but they said they were leaving at once.